

Application No. 09/992,639  
Amendment dated December 4, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A provisional femoral head, comprising:

a spherical body having a spherical exterior wall and a generally cylindrical internal aperture formed in a distal end of said spherical body thereof, said cylindrical internal aperture defining a curved interior wall of said spherical body, said spherical body including a cutout spanning said spherical exterior wall and said curved interior wall of said spherical body, said cutout intersecting said internal aperture, said cutout sized whereby a provisional femoral neck can traverse said cutout to be positioned within said internal aperture.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The provisional femoral head of Claim 1,~~ A provisional femoral head, comprising:

a spherical body having a generally cylindrical internal aperture formed in a distal end thereof, said spherical body including a cutout intersecting said internal aperture, said cutout sized whereby a provisional femoral neck can traverse said cutout to be positioned within said internal aperture, wherein said spherical body further includes including a clamp aperture sized to receive a blade end of a clamp.

Claim 3 (original): The provisional femoral head of Claim 1, wherein said spherical body further includes a vent aperture fluidly connecting said internal aperture and a proximal end of said spherical body.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

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Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The provisional femoral head of Claim 4,~~ A provisional femoral head, comprising:

a spherical body having a generally cylindrical internal aperture formed in a distal end of said spherical body, said internal aperture sized to accommodate a provisional femoral neck, said spherical body further including a vent aperture fluidly connecting said internal aperture and a proximal end of said spherical body, wherein said spherical body further includes including a clamp aperture sized to receive a blade end of a clamp.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The provisional femoral head of ~~Claim 4~~ Claim 5, wherein said spherical body includes a cutout intersecting said internal aperture, said cutout sized whereby a provisional femoral neck can traverse said cutout to be positioned within said internal aperture.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): An apparatus for maintaining an access in the tissue of a body comprising:  
a tubular retractor having a hollow interior sized to accommodate passage of surgical instruments therethrough.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 7, further comprising an occluder including an extension for insertion into said hollow interior of said tubular retractor, said occluder further including a flange, said flange of said occluder abutting an end of said retractor when said retractor is positioned about said extension, said occluder further including a handle.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said tubular retractor includes a plurality of apertures spaced about the exterior thereof.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said tubular retractor has a generally rectangular cross section.

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Claim 11 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein said tubular retractor includes a plurality of apertures through a pair of opposing sidewalls of said tubular retractor.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein each of said apertures is symmetrical about a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said tubular retractor.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 8, wherein said retractor has a generally rectangular cross section.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The apparatus of Claim 13, wherein said extension of said occluder has a generally rectangular cross section.

Claim 15 (new): The provisional femoral head of Claim 6, wherein said spherical body includes a spherical exterior wall, and wherein said internal aperture defines a curved interior wall of said spherical body, said cutout spanning said spherical exterior wall and said curved interior wall of said spherical body.

Claim 16 (new): A provisional femoral head, comprising:  
a spherical body having a generally cylindrical internal aperture formed in a distal end of said spherical body, said internal aperture sized to accommodate a provisional femoral neck, said spherical body further including a clamp aperture sized to receive a blade end of a clamp.

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Claim 17 (new): The provisional femoral head of Claim 16, wherein said spherical body includes a spherical exterior wall, and wherein said generally cylindrical internal aperture defines a curved interior wall of said spherical body, said spherical body including a cutout spanning said spherical exterior wall and said curved interior wall of said spherical body, said cutout intersecting said internal aperture, said cutout sized whereby a provisional femoral neck can traverse said cutout to be positioned within said internal aperture.

Claim 18 (new): A provisional femoral head, comprising:  
a spherical body having a generally cylindrical internal aperture formed in a distal end of said spherical body, said internal aperture having a longitudinal axis; and  
means for allowing a provisional femoral neck to move radially relative to said longitudinal axis to be positioned in said internal aperture of said spherical body.

Claim 19 (new): The provisional femoral head of Claim 18, wherein said spherical body further includes a clamp aperture sized to receive a blade end of a clamp.

Claim 20 (new): A provisional femoral head, comprising:  
a spherical body having a generally cylindrical internal aperture formed in a distal end of said spherical body, said internal aperture having a longitudinal axis, said spherical body including a radial cutout radially intersecting said internal aperture relative to said longitudinal axis of said internal aperture, said cutout sized whereby a provisional femoral neck can radially traverse said cutout to be positioned within said internal aperture.

Claim 21 (new): The provisional femoral head of Claim 20, wherein said spherical body further includes a clamp aperture sized to receive a blade end of a clamp.